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Weather Forecast		Today
		High: 51 Low: 28
Saturday	Sunday	
		High: 59 Low: 41

FRIDAY

Fort Riley Post



Kansas honors troops

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said she was honored to sign the proclamation to make March 19 Armed Forces Appreciation Day. See Page 9

March 28, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 46, No. 13

Infantry's 'Vipers' ready to rock

By Amy Abbott
Army News Service

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait — "It's important that you stay close together. I've said it 100 times, and here's 101: 'We ain't got no friendlies in front of us,'" said a stern Staff Sgt. Wade Chermis.

The platoon of "Vipers" from Company B, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, Fort Riley, Kan., listens intently to the guidance from their squad leader. As they sit in the sand, wiping away a day's worth of tough training in the desert's sweltering heat, they discuss what they did well, and what they can improve next time.

The 2nd Platoon soldiers, from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of V Corps' 1st Armored Division, spent March 16 going through room- and trench-clearing procedures. With a staged set, made up of sandbags and taped dividers, the soldiers cleared "bunkers" and secured "hallways."

"Just like everything else we do — practice, practice, practice. It hones their skills," said Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Griffin. "Like anything else, if you get complacent you lose your edge."

During their after action review, the Vipers discussed everything from switching out their lead men to moving through the course faster and fiercer. Chermis summed up the AAR by asking, "Did we all get some training out of this?" The platoon's answer was a unanimous battle cry: "HOO-AH!"

"The training gives our platoon more familiarization. I feel we're already prepared, and this is just a refresher," said Pfc. Dean Gonzales, a Squad Automatic Weapon gunner in the platoon's second squad. Familiarization is something a soldier can never get enough of, the Vipers say.

"The guy next to me could get killed if I make the wrong decision or position him wrong," said Spc. Don Angle, first squad team leader. "This makes us stay focused. The Vipers are definitely ready for anything, because we have excellent leaders who train us hard."

The Vipers do not just train hard, they train often. Veterans of the Kuwaiti desert, they were in Kuwait with their battalion from May until October of last year. Then they returned home for a brief two weeks before "training up" for another mission and their return to Kuwait earlier this month. Now that they're back to the sandy browns of the desert, they're training day and night to perfect and enhance their skills.

"My personal opinion is that this is the best trained mechanized infantry battalion in the United States Army right now," said

Griffin. "This is our job and this is what we train for," added Spc. Salas Ruben, a rifleman in the Vipers' third squad. "We're ready for anything and our confidence is high. We're cocked, blocked and ready to rock!"

Editor's note: Sgt. Amy Abbott is a member of V Corps Public Affairs.



Soldiers from the 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, train on room- and trench-clearing procedures in Kuwait.

Soldiers practice urban warfighting

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

The 3662nd Maintenance Company from Devil's Lake, North Dakota, went through a field training exercise March 10-12 at the Fort Riley Military Operations on Urban Terrain site.

The training exercise covered several areas, including perimeter defense, sniper fire, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical training and civilians on the battlefield.

"We have training based on what the soldiers may encounter in a core area," said Staff Sgt. Robb Mourtou, an observer/controller/trainer with 3rd Battalion, 383rd Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support). "We have them encounter everything from a car bomb or a suicide bomber to protesters or an NBC attack."

The soldiers were on duty for the FTX for 24 hours at a time before rotating platoons.

"We try to provide as realistic training as can be obtained," said Sgt. 1st Class Darren Beckman, FTX lanemaster, 3rd Bn., 383rd Reg. "The exercise is tailored to where the unit is likely to be in a Central Command area."

Many of the soldiers of the 3662nd Maint. Co. have been together for several years. One soldier has known many of her comrades her whole life.

Spc. Jennifer Johnson said her father, Staff Sgt. Lym Johnson, has been with the unit as long as she has been alive.

"I kind of grew into it. I have known these people forever," she said. "I joined the National Guard because my grandfather said women couldn't make it in the military. I had to prove him wrong."

While Jennifer said she was sad to leave her boyfriend behind, she added that she is looking forward to her deployment.

"It's not every day you get to be a hero," she said.

Being deployed might be easier if his daughter were at home, said Lym, but he doesn't have a problem with her being part of the unit.

"I know she will be okay," he said. "She can take care of herself."

Lym was pleased with the training the unit was receiving at the FTX.

"We need this training, and I found out some things I didn't know. This is probably the most challenging thing we have done here," he said.

The soldiers of 3662nd Maint. Co. have been at Fort Riley since Feb. 27, and will eventually deploy to a Central Command location.

Spirits remain high and morale is good as they make their transition to active duty, said Capt. Ben Cleghorn, commander, 3662nd Maint.



Soldiers from the 3662nd Maintenance Company move a "wounded" soldier after a simulated NBC training exercise.

See Urban Training Page 2

Lightning push ends with showdown for 2nd Bn., 70th Armor

By Ray Quintanilla
Chicago Tribune reporter

NASIRIYAH, Iraq — Explosions near the airport lit up the night sky, giving the hushed soldiers of the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry their first view of the low skyline of this southern Iraqi city they had come to conquer.

After rolling unimpeded for 70 miles in a huge wedge formation across the open Iraqi desert, the tanks and other armor met their first resistance after nightfall on the outskirts of this city on the Euphrates River near the birthplace of the biblical patriarch Abraham.

At this pause in their drive toward Baghdad, their predicament was plain: Iraqi soldiers tasked with defending the city reportedly had backed up into it, the commanders taking refuge in a hospital and children's clinic.

Using infrared flashlights to study maps, Lt. Col. Jeff Ingram, a tank battalion commander with the 3rd Infantry Division, conferred with his officers over the tailgate of an armored personnel carrier. The problem: How to avoid the dreaded urban warfare into which the Iraqis were trying to lure them.

"It was proved in Chechnya that you can't level every house," Ingram said, standing beside the tank he commands after an

exhausting and dusty 12-hour ride. "The Western world doesn't do it that way."

As part of his unit exchanged fire with Iraqis at the airport across town, Ingram and his superiors debated how to deal with a problem that foreshadowed an even bigger problem over conducting urban warfare inside Baghdad in the days to come.

Taking Nasiriyah was the first objective of the infantry division's 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored unit when it rolled uncontested over the Iraq-Kuwait border just after dawn Friday. It was the first city of significance on Iraqi Highway 8 that curves north on the road from Basra to Baghdad.

The troops rolled northwest first in a straight convoy, passing the abandoned outposts of UN peacekeepers who had watched over the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait since the 1991 Persian Gulf war. Then came the detritus of that war, charred Iraqi tanks and soldiers' helmets still strewn along the road.

After a dusty two hours, the battalion assumed the fighting formation for which it is famous: Its dozens of M-1 Abrams tanks spread out in a wedge as far as the eye could see along the horizon, Ingram's tank at the tip of the spear as it plowed ahead through the sand.

For several hours, the only sign

of human life along the way were Bedouin goat farmers emerging from their tents. They were desert people whose environs showed no tracks from cars or even bicycles, and now they were scrambling to get out of the way of battle tanks surging past them.

Dressed in long robes and kaffiyehs, many of them smiled and waved. Others, bewildered by the commotion, just stared.

Through the haze of dust thrown up by the tank treads, a lone camel scampered to avoid being run over.

Enemy lies ahead
For the soldiers, it could have been a boring trip, except for the they had heard in their intelligence briefing earlier. About 30 minutes ahead they expected to run into the enemy.

"Maybe they are dug in. It's infantry, maybe later on there will be tanks, but I don't know," said Spec. Bart Viers, 24, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., who was driving the Humvee behind the lead tank.

The only breaks in the drive, which would last 12 hours, were quick stops when the refueling trucks would race forward to service the gas-guzzling tanks. Those were moments when crews would run over to exchange a few words about what might lie ahead.

At 5:32 p.m., they were stopped again when a captain informed Viers and his passengers that the destination was

Nasiriyah. The plan was to stop just outside artillery range and allow the commanders to assess how best to enter the city.

Soldiers from nearby vehicles said they were surprised that the ride had been so smooth until that

point. Some had heard that fellow Americans and British soldiers were firing well in battles elsewhere in Iraq; these soldiers from Fort Riley, Kan., wanted their chance too.

"I was very nervous coming in

here," said Sgt. David Witherington, 24, of Montgomery, Ala. "Hopefully, we can connect with the Iraqis and show them what we can do."

See Showdown Page 2



Iraqi prisoners in a bus stopped at a checkpoint to wave to a soldier with the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor near the town of An Nasariya, north of the Euphrates River in Iraq.



Military health system watching outbreaks of atypical pneumonia

Outbreaks of a respiratory disease known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or atypical pneumonia has spread across the continent of Asia. The Department of Defense's Military Health System is watching these outbreaks as well as isolated cases in Europe and North America. Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs for Military Health System Beneficiaries, Falls Church, Va., has directed that his message about SARS be posted on the TRICARE website and sent to all news outlets to inform military health beneficiaries about it.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome is a severe form of pneumonia that appears to have originated in China. Winkenwerder's message states, "Outbreaks

have primarily spread to close family contacts of the suspect cases, and health-care workers involved in care of the pneumonia cases." The message also points out that direct, close contact with infected persons is necessary for contracting SARS.

The SARS outbreak occurred in February 2003 and the People's Republic of China reported over 300 cases of atypical pneumonia,

and five deaths, in Guangdong Province. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Ga., received reports of SARS outbreaks in several countries —

"Outbreaks have primarily spread to close family contacts of the suspect cases, and healthcare workers involved in care of the pneumonia cases."

**—Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr.
An Assistant Secretary of Defense**

Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Canada.

"There have not been any confirmed cases in the United States at this time," according

Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, is investigating 14 persons who may have some of the symptoms of atypical pneumonia.

"Because cases (SARS) have reached North America, with eight cases and two deaths confirmed in Canada, the CDC has issued an alert for physicians and travelers in the United States to be cognizant of flu-like symptoms, to consider recent travel and contacts, to seek medical attention if ill and to report possible cases," states Winkenwerder.

Investigations in determining if SARS is caused by a bacteria or virus have begun at the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control. "There is no evidence that this is a purposeful act of bioterrorism."

Winkenwerder's message suggests reducing the risk of acquiring the disease by practicing good hygiene - frequent hand-washing and covering one's mouth while sneezing or coughing.

He said the DoD's infectious disease surveillance systems are monitoring for SARS and possible cases.

"My office will receive daily updates on our health care surveillance of DoD beneficiaries across the globe. In addition, our military laboratories are supporting both CDC and WHO as needed," states Winkenwerder.

For more information, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars.
Editor's Note: Courtesy of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), the Pentagon.

Showdown continued from page 1

Lt. Steve Bjorkman, 25, of Boise, Idaho, was keeping a journal. In it he wrote, "This is dull. This is dull. This is dull." The communications officer mentioned that the temperature was pushing 90 degrees and that some of the fuel tankers were getting stuck in sand berms.

"I was surprised we didn't see anything [of the Iraqi enemy], but that's not going to be the case forever," Bjorkman said.

Hour after hour they pushed on, not encountering the enemy. Eventually the Bedouin tents disappeared. The land was now completely flat and barren, save for a few bushes and weeds.

It was dark for the last 20 miles to the edge of Nasiriyah, and the soldiers donned night-vision goggles

for the last part of it. The vehicles moved unseen through the darkness, except when illuminated by the headlights of an Iraqi car coming up a narrow road before it U-turned and dashed off in the other direction.

At 9:41 p.m., the battalion had pulled up to its rest area outside the city. In the darkness, the commanders conferred while the tank crews dozed atop their hulking vehicles.

Somewhere near where they stopped were the ruins of the ancient city of Ur, mentioned in the Bible as the birthplace of Abraham and once the capital of the ancient civilization of Sumeria. Until recent years, this part of Mesopotamia was home to many of Iraq's so-called "Marsh Arabs,"

but Saddam Hussein's regime has drained most of the marshes.

As night fell Friday, part of the advancing infantry had come under Iraqi artillery fire as it approached Nasiriyah.

A detachment of tanks and troops had been sent to engage the Iraqis near the airport, and air strikes had been called in by U.S. forces.

The thunderous bombs made huge flashes on the horizon, lighting up the skyline and trees and radio towers of the city. The troops also listened to machine-gun fire and what appeared to be mortar rounds exploding in the distance.

Mission grows complicated
Surrounded by about 15 officers, Ingram shared the report that

some of the Iraqi commanders had moved into the hospital. He told them it complicated their strategy; the Iraqis were back on their heels, retreating into defensive positions in the city.

A second concern worried the officers: They feared the Iraqis could again release water from the river, re-creating the marshes and flooding the ground in the path of the tanks.

"The Iraqi strategy appears to be house-to-house fighting," said Ingram, who took advantage of the break to remove his boots and air out his socks after the long drive. "When they move into the city, it makes it much more difficult to find the Iraqi troops. We haven't made any final decisions."

Those decisions came a few hours later. At 12:20 a.m., the tank crews dropped down into their hatches again and the armored

division moved off into the night toward the battle.

Reprinted with permission from the Chicago Tribune.

Grunt By Wayne Udden



Urban Training continued from page 1

Co. "They are doing really well," said Cleghorn. "They are highly motivated and are meeting their tasks — above and beyond. They are ready to go..."

"There is a certain amount of

nervousness that comes with being deployed," said 1st Sgt. Jim Moe, 1st Sgt., 3662nd Maint. Co. "But, our training is going well and the soldiers are doing a great job."

While at Fort Riley, the 3662nd

Maint. Co. has been through the NBC confidence chamber, weapons qualifications and common task training, and FTX.

The OCTs from 3rd Bde., 383rd Reg., have been very helpful in the training, said Moe.

"They have been great. They break down how we need to accomplish our training tasks and they give us pointers on how to improve our performance."



Army, Fort Riley activate Family Assistance Hotlines

The U.S. Army has established a toll-free Family Assistance Hotline for Operation Iraqi Freedom at (800) 833-6622. Fort Riley has also established a toll-free number, (877) 541-4027, to help callers get information on active duty, Reserve or National Guard soldiers, both on-post and deployed.

The Army hotline was established by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, in conjunction with the Army Family Liaison Office staff, to provide referrals and information to the families of deployed or activated soldiers.

The hotline is toll free when called from the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The hotline staff will answer calls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily Eastern Standard Time to answer family support-related questions. Emergency assistance will be provided between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. EST, officials said.

"Our staff will assist all callers by listening, explaining and directing them to the most helpful resources we can," said Gail Lovisone, manager of CFSC's Family Assistance Hotline call center.

Lovisone emphasized that the first place families of active-duty soldiers should contact is Army Community Service or the unit rear detachment at the installation from which the soldiers deployed. At Fort Riley, both of these are located in the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264, 239-9435.

"The mission of our Family Assistance Hotline is to provide Army families caring support in the form of accurate information, useful resources and helpful referrals related to family issues," said Brig. Gen. Robert L. Decker, commander of the USAFSC, the Army agency responsible for Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"This Family Assistance Hotline is a 'safety net' for those who have exhausted all other resources," said Decker. "We will do everything we can to help each and every caller."

The hotline is intended for use only by family members of soldiers on active duty as well as those in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve called to active duty.

Due to operational security and force protection concerns, CFSC hotline staff cannot provide locator services (addresses) for soldiers or units, or information

about operational matters.

"We may often refer callers to the installation because installation ACS staff have local resource telephone numbers and more detailed information," explained Lovisone.

In addition to local and Army-level assistance via telephone, family members can find answers to many routine questions about family readiness, Army Community Service and deployment support resources online at the ACS Web site, www.goacs.org and at the Army Family Liaison Office website, www.aflo.org.

"We anticipate a high volume of calls, so we strongly urge people to use those Web sites as a first stop," said Lovisone.

Recognizing that not all households have Internet connectivity, Lovisone suggested families use computers at installation ACS centers or at on-post or local civilian libraries.

Fort Riley's SFSC Family Readiness Center has seven computers available for families who do not have Internet access at home. They are open to any deployed soldier's family members 24 hours a day.

Editor's Note: Army News Service and Staff Reports

Talk Around Town

"What do you think of the television coverage of Operation Iraqi Freedom?"



"I really don't watch it. I was in Desert Storm, so this is all new to me. Not being over there is the hard part for me."

Spc. James Weekly
530th MP Battalion



"So far its been really well covered. It's very helpful and keeps our spirits up, but it also shows us what war does to people."

Pvt. 2 Jeremy Cox
172nd Chemical Company



"It's explicit. Some of it should not be aired. It's hard for children with parents in the military and it's hard to think that their parents might be going over there."

Tychelle Vassol
Military Spouse

Funston Lake Closed

Dry conditions have caused the lake to become shallow, resulting in very poor water quality. Some fish remain in the lake, but are stressed from the low oxygen level and an apparent algal bloom. Any fish taken from Funston Lake at this time would likely be of poor quality. Fishing in the lake will be prohibited until further notice.

FORT RILEY POST

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Printer-John G. Montgomery
Fort Riley Editorial Staff:

Editor-Lori A. Bultman
Staff Writers-Spc. William Biles, Pfc. Jamie Bender,
Summer Alford, Kim Levine, Emily O'Connor, Mike Watson
Advertising Representatives-
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Briefs

Easter Sunrise Service

The Fort Riley Easter Sunrise Service will be held April 20, 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. at the Fort Riley Outdoor Chapel.

The service will be open to the community, and a breakfast will be served immediately following the service. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at Morris Hill Chapel.

For more information, contact the installation Chaplain, 239-3359.

Alcohol and Drug Prevention

There will be an Alcohol and Drug Prevention Education class on April 21, 9 - 11 a.m., at the CPAC, building 319. The focus of this class will be the medical aspects of substance abuse. The class is open to all federal employees, AF and NAF. SPECIAL NOTE: This class is a mandatory training for all civilian employees.

Registration by April 10, is required. For more information or to register, call Jennifer Landsaw, 239-6004 or Nathan Butler, 239-2205.

Employment Readiness Program Brief

The 2003 orientation dates are April 8, 15, 22 and 29. Pre-registration is required. The briefings are held 9 a.m. - noon at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264.

Attend the Orientation/Intake to obtain information on the current Kansas job market and

employment assistance available. For more information, contact the Employment Readiness Program, 239-9435.

Jewish Passover

The Passover will be observed from sundown April 16 through sunset April 24. During the observance, April 16, 17, 23 and 24 are days of religious obligation for personnel of the Jewish faith. Jewish soldiers should be granted leave whenever possible to ensure maximum observance.

The nearest Jewish congregation is located at 1509 Wreath Ave., Manhattan. The nearest Jewish synagogue is located at 4200 SW Munson, Topeka.

Sunset Zoo Community Appreciation

Sunset Zoo in Manhattan is having a Community Appreciation Day tomorrow. Admission to the zoo will be free from noon until 4:30 p.m. The zoo will offer a variety of activities during the day.

Special Forces

A Special Forces recruiter will be visiting Fort Riley Monday - Wednesday. Briefings will be held at the Post-Reup building (7626) at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. daily, with an additional briefing at 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

A PT test will be conducted on Wednesday, 7 a.m., at Long track. Candidates will wear BDUs and running shoes.

For more information, call (719) 510-4493.

Tax Center

The Fort Riley Tax center is open. The center is located at the Army Community Service and Family and Soldier Support Cen-

ter on Custer Hill, building 7264. The center's hours are: Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 230-1040.

Legal Assistance New Hours

Starting on Monday, the Fort Riley Legal Assistance Office will be changing hours to reflect the

new duty schedule. The office will be open for walk-ins (notarizations and powers of attorney) Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Thursday, 1 - 8

Fort Riley celebrates Woman's History Month

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

In 1987, the month of March was designated nation-wide as Women's History Month. As stated in the Women's History Month Proclamation, this month provides the country the privilege of honoring the countless contributions that American women have made throughout history.

In celebration of the month, the Equal Opportunity Office sponsored an observance program, "Women Pioneering the Future," held March 19, at the post theater.

Displays featuring women pioneers throughout time lined the stage for attendees to see. The audience was filled with men and women of all ages.

"The history of American women is an expansive story of outstanding individuals who sacrificed much and worked hard in pursuit of a better world, where peace, dignity and opportunity can reign," reads the proclamation.

Guest Speaker Pat Anderson, assistant superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for USD 475, in her speech, reaffirmed this rich history and urged women to continue to contribute to society in the future.

"Women need to continue to behave as pioneers if they wish to make a difference," said Anderson, who spent a majority of her high school years at Junction City High School. "When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die," she said, quoting Eleanor Roosevelt.

Anderson also stressed the importance of women staying in touch with their soft sides.

"The pioneer spirit to be carried out by women need not distract from issues of softness, caring, altruism and commitment," said Anderson. "A woman is like a tea bag; only in hot water do you realize how strong she is," again quoting Roosevelt.

Anderson has been in her current job for seven years, and prior to that, spent 15 years in the classroom. She has also served as liaison for Effective Schools and director of Secondary Education in USD 475. Her speech focused on three women pioneers that have touched and inspired her, Jane Adams, Golda Meir and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Anderson also stressed the importance of women working collaboratively with one another to achieve goals, and spoke of the women in today's world.

"I note that women who have made a difference have been hardy, in often-times very lonely circumstances, not unlike what is being expected of the women left on this post right now," she said.

Anderson also took time to notice the women serving overseas who have left families and children behind.

Quoting the words of Meir, Anderson said, "Whether women are better than men, I cannot say, but I can say they are certainly no worse."

The celebration concluded with a food sampling in the theater lobby.

Normandy Theater

Tonight:

7 p.m.
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13)

Saturday:

7 p.m.
Dark Blue (R)

Sunday:

7 p.m.
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13)

Thursday:

7 p.m.
Dark Blue (R)

April 4:

7 p.m.
Adaptation (R)

Ticket prices:
Adults - \$3
Children - \$1.50



More Briefs

p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The appointment hours will be Monday and Tuesday, 1 - 4 p.m., Wednesday (Will Day) 9 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 3 - 8 p.m., Friday 9 - 1130 a.m. and 4:30 - 8 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. If you have any questions, call 239-3117.

Thrift Savings Plan

The next Thrift Savings Plan Open Season will begin on Tuesday and will close on June 30. The TSP contribution limit for FERS employees for 2003 is 13 percent. The TSP contribution limit for CSRS employees for 2003 is 8 percent. The loan interest rate for new loans is 3.87 percent. You must enroll online for TSP, no hard copies will be accepted. Go to www.abc.army.mil or call 1-877-276-9833. For more information on TSP, go to www.tsp.gov.

Thrift Shop

The Fort Riley post-wide yard sale is not coming soon enough. The Thrift Shop wants to help you get rid of your extra stuff now!! Call the Thrift Shop and someone will come and pick up your donations (in good condition). Visit the Thrift Shop in building 267, Stuart Ave., 784-3874. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month. The Thrift Shop is looking for enthusiastic and "thrifty" people to be on the board for next year. If you are interested, call Scott Martis, 784-2351.

The Shoppe

Freshen up your home for Spring with something new from The Shoppe! The Shoppe has

many new bright ideas for Easter. The Shoppe will have a booth at the OCSC Spring Bazaar...so look for them there!

The Shoppe is located in building 259, Stuart Ave., 239-2783. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday. The Shoppe accepts Visa & MasterCard (minimum of \$25 purchase) and offers gift certificates to make your shopping easier! The Shoppe is also a great place to hold a unit coffee. Call now to reserve your night!

Air Conditioning Schedule

Weather permitting, heat turn off will occur April 7 - 18 in the following sequence: Administrative buildings, barracks, BEQ's and BOQ's with individual units,

8000 area, dining facilities and then community buildings.

Air conditioning systems are scheduled to be turned on May 5 - 16 in the following order: Barracks, BOQ's and BEQ's, 8000 area, community buildings, administrative buildings, dining facilities and then motor pools.

The heating and cooling systems in the chapels, medical and dental buildings will be maintained as appropriate. Family housing occupants control their own heat/air conditioning systems as desired. The authorized temperature for the cooling season is 76 to 80 degrees.

SFSC Hours

Beginning Tuesday, the entire Soldier and Family Support Center will have new operating hours. With the new time change for

soldier's physical training, all programs within the building have changed hours. The new hours are: Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The staff asks that you please call ahead of time if you will be needing services between noon and 1 p.m., so that staff members can adjust their schedule accordingly to meet your needs. Please note that this does NOT include the Family Readiness Center that is open 24/7, due to deployments.

Spring Bazaar

The Fort Riley Officers' and Civilians' Spouses Club annual Spring Bazaar and Car Show will be held April 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and April 6, from noon to 5 p.m. at Fort Riley Middle School.

Employment Readiness Program

The dates for the Employment Readiness Program Orientation/Intake are: April 8, 15, 22 and 29. Pre-registration is required. The orientation is held from 9 a.m. - noon, Soldier Family Support Center, building 7264. Attend the Orientation/Intake to obtain information on the current Kansas job market and employment assistance available. Also, complete your enrollment for job search assistance. For more information, call 239-9435.

ID Card Center Hours

Beginning Monday, the ID Card Center hours will change. The center will open at 8 a.m., and

the last incoming customers will be let in at 3 p.m.

Mail Training

An Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations class will be offered on Wednesday and again April 16, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at building 319. An Official Mail training class will be offered on April 9, 8 a.m. - noon, building 319, CPAC. Pre-enrollment is required. Call 239-5411 to enroll.





Photo by Joseph Gordoneo of the Pacific Stars and Stripes.
Used with permission from the Stars and Stripes. © 2003 Stars and Stripes.

Tankers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor return fire after being ambushed in southern Iraq on March 22.

Red Cross will help ship goodies to troops

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

Soldiers who want to play board games or eat food not from a bag labeled MRE can do so, thanks to the American Red Cross.

The Quality of Life Program is not new, but it has been on hold for security reasons since Nov. 2, 2001. Now, it is up-and-running again so that groups who want to send items, from snack foods to toiletries, to soldiers in the Central Command area of responsibility can do so.

Sharon Rose, assistant station manager, was stationed overseas for four months to help with American Red Cross efforts. She said the donations were always a hit with soldiers.

"They were always very appreciative," she said. "They would come to the Red Cross area and watch TV and do other things—play games like checkers and dominoes. And there were items on tables, like popcorn, razors and sunscreen, so that soldiers could come by and get what they needed."

There are only a couple of restrictions on what items can be sent from the home front. Groups, like the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Family Support Groups, can take items to the nearest American Red Cross office. From there, the items will be routed overseas and be placed on tables in the support area for any soldier who needs the items.

At Fort Riley, the American Red Cross office is located in the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264.

Sutton said the packages are inspected to make sure nothing hazardous is being shipped to the soldiers. That was the main reason the program was shut down in the first place—the threat of anthrax, she said.

"People who bring in packages for the group must do so in an open box, so that we can look at the contents and make sure it is safe," she said. "They should not bring a sealed box."

Sutton said they should also not expect to send a care package to a particular soldier or unit. The American Red Cross is just the routing agent, and there is no way of knowing where the items will be distributed.

So far, there have been no groups sending packages to soldiers from Fort Riley, but Sutton said people probably do not know the Quality of Life Program is up-and-running again.

Once they know, she said she expects more groups to send care packages to support the soldiers.

When donations are brought in, the boxes can be no bigger than 18 inches by 12 inches by 10 inches, and the weight cannot exceed 45 pounds. "And, unfortunately, due to a restricted budget, we have no money for special projects such as this. So, if a group wants to send items, a monetary donation for shipping is requested," she said.

By William Biles
Staff Writer

There is a certain breed of Military Police on Fort Riley that has been trained to sniff out evil.

Some of those evils are possession of illegal drugs, possession of ordnance and attempting to flee from an officer.

This breed of MP, trained to detect contraband and stop would-be escapees, is found at the Military Working Dogs Section of the 523rd Military Police Detachment.

The canines stationed at Fort Riley have either been trained since they were puppies, in the Puppy Program, or purchased up to the age of one-year-old by a school at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, said Spc Ezariah Bricknell, military working dog handler, 523rd MP Det.

Lackland AFB is also the home of the Military Working Dog Training Course, where the handlers receive their three-month Advanced Individual Training in a joint environment, he said.

While at their AIT, the handlers are put through the full spectrum of training they will need once they are stationed at their permanent duty assignment. They are trained in the areas of bomb detection, narcotics detection and proper patrolling procedures, to name a few, said Bricknell.

"We all go through the same course at the school, but whatever type of dog you are assigned to at your duty station will be the job you are to perform," he said.

To become a handler for a military working dog, soldiers need to already be MPs holding the rank of specialist or higher. This is required in order to gain a slot in the handler's school and receive the skill identifier, said Bricknell.

The working dogs and their handlers carry out a variety of tasks while on duty. Some of those tasks are patrol operations, Health and Welfare Inspections for the post units, roadside checkpoints and bomb threat response, said Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wilson, kennel master, 523rd MP Det.

"We would like to have the units on post participate more often with Health and Welfare Inspections of their barracks," he said.

During a Health and Welfare Inspection, the handlers walk their working dogs through the barracks and the barrack's parking lot in search of illegal contraband that a soldier might be in possession of, Wilson said.

The military working dog section has been broken down into teams to better cover the variety of tasks given to them. A team consists of a canine and his handler, said Bricknell.

"When certain missions come up, the mission will depict which team will go out. If an explosion mission comes up, then an explosives dog and his handler will

receive the task. The same goes for narcotics," he said. "All of the dogs are trained as patrol dogs in addition to their specialty trait."

The canines are also deployable and can be called to duty to perform tasks on orders from Forces Command and the U.S. Secret Service.

They can also be tasked out to the U.S. Customs Agency. Additionally, the teams may find themselves performing their duties overseas for deployment support.

Bricknell said the teams are in countries like Bosnia, Kosovo and Southwest Asia, according to the section's mission statement.

For the dogs to stay fresh, the handlers are constantly training them in their tasking, said Wilson.

The patrol dogs receive around four hours a week of bite training. With bite training, the dogs practice their bite techniques on the handlers, while the handlers are dressed as a decoy in a bite suit.

The MPs literally know the pains the fleeing suspect will receive from the pursuing dog when it catches them. "With being a handler, it's not a matter of 'if' you get bit, it's a matter of when.

All of the handlers here have at least one scare they received while training their dogs," said Wilson.

The dogs are capable of delivering 800 - 1,000 pounds of pressure per square inch with their bite, he said. "You can definitely

feel the strength of their bite, even when you are in the suit," Wilson added.

During the bite training exercise, the dogs will perform six phases of controlled aggression, said Bricknell.

When a dog isn't responsive to the handler's commands, it will be recycled back to Lackland AFB to be retrained, and if that doesn't work they will be retired for Failure to Adapt, he said.

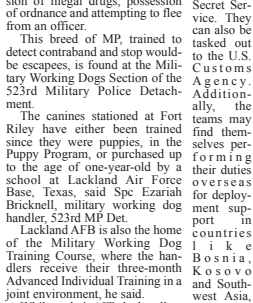
When a canine is ready to retire from duty, and if it is medically suitable, it will be adopted out to a family, said Bricknell.

For a family to receive a retired military working dog, the prospective adopters need to fill out the proper paper work, to include a waiver stating they understand what the dog did for a living and will take full responsibility for the animal, said Wilson.

However, the handlers get the first opportunity to adopting the canines when their time comes to retire, added Bricknell.

The best advice I can give to someone up against a canine cop is to give up, said Bricknell. "Don't run away, because you will be caught and probably bit."

Other phases are designed to



Post Biles

Barron, a military working dog in the 523rd Military Police Detachment, reacts to signs of aggression by a decoy during training.



Post Biles

Rex, military working dog, chases down a decoy, Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wilson, kennel master, 523rd MP Det., during a recent training session.



Korea 50 years ago -- 7th ID fights for Old Baldy, Pork Chop Hill

By Jim Caldwell
Army News Service

7th Infantry Division soldiers, and a Colombian battalion attached to the 7th ID, fought to control the Old Baldy-Pork Chop Hill region, 50 years ago this week.

March 20-26, 1953 — Chinese forces continue their attacks against outposts held by American and allied units. There is fierce fighting in the eastern end of the I Corps zone.

The enemy begins firing artillery around the clock on 7th ID positions in the Old Baldy-Pork Chop region March 20. Troops await an attack. Two Chinese deserters confirm that the Reds appear to be preparing for an attack.

The division's 31st Infantry Regiment is holding the line. The 2nd Battalion is on the left of Old Baldy, the 3rd Battalion is on Pork Chop Hill. Between them, holding part of Old Baldy, is the attached Colombian Battalion.

Farther west, on March 21, two Chinese companies attack a 2nd ID patrol near the Hook. The GIs call in reinforcements and artillery. The reinforcements help fight off the Chinese until early March 22, when the enemy withdraws.

That night, after 1,700 mortar and artillery rounds land on Hedy and Bunker Hills, four miles east of Panmunjon, two Chinese companies attack Marines of the 1st Marine Division's 1st Regiment. The Marines have to fight the enemy hand-to-hand before driving them from the hill.

For the next several nights, the communists harass the Marines by hitting Bunker Hill outposts.

After dark on March 23, the expected attack comes against 7th ID troops. A company hits Old Baldy, and two companies attack the 3rd Battalion on Pork Chop. Enemy artillery catches the Colombians rotating their troops on Old Baldy. When the artillery lifts, Chinese soldiers make it into the Colombians' trenches. A company is sent to reinforce the Colombians at 9:30 p.m., but it is stopped by enemy artillery and mortar fire. When the company gets pinned down, the Reds open up with rifles, automatic weapons and grenades.

The company finally makes it to Old Baldy at 2 a.m., March 24. The first bunkers the soldiers come to are not heavily defended and the company easily rids them of enemy soldiers. But the Americans are stopped by the main Chinese force and they withdraw.

On Bunker Hill, the GIs hold off the enemy until their ammo

gets low. The company pulls back from the crest and waits for ammunition to be brought up. While the troops wait, Marine artillery fires shells with proximity fuses on the enemy.

Then the company is ordered to help another company take Hill 200, a mile southeast, which has also been attacked.

After daylight, another company is sent to retake Pork Chop. It is held up by enemy proximity-fuse artillery.

When they do reach the crest, they report back that there are many dead and wounded, and that nearly every bunker is destroyed and burning.

Beginning on March 24 and continuing into March 26, soldiers supported by tanks attempt to regain Old Baldy. During the night on March 26, Air Force, Navy and Marine tactical fighters slam enemy positions.

The Chinese leave Old Baldy during the airstrikes. That gives Colombian soldiers, who were hiding in damaged bunkers, their chance to make it back to the Main Line of Resistance.

The Marines, too, have been

fighting their skirmishes all week. Enemy forces have not been as large as those the soldiers have been engaging — until March 26.

A full Chinese regiment hits three outposts of the 5th Marine Regiment about 10 miles northeast of Panmunjon.

Vegas and Reno fall quickly, with surviving Marines falling back toward the MLR and setting up blocking positions.

A company from the 2nd Battalion is sent to reinforce the third outpost, Carson, where Marines are fighting for their lives. As the company starts up Carson, it is stopped by enemy artillery and small arms. Marines take cover and engage the enemy with small arms.

Casualties are heavy during the ensuing four-hour firefight. Navy Corpsman Francis C. Hammond, 21, Alexandria, Va., spends the time running through the bullets, treating wounded Marines and taking them to the bottom of the hill.

The company is given the word to pull back. The Marines are followed down the hill by rifle fire

from the Chinese. Hammond sees a Marine fall and starts back up the hill for him.

Hammond is killed when a mortar shell lands right in front of him.

His posthumous Medal of Honor is presented to his wife, Phyllis, by Secretary of the Navy Robert B. Anderson Dec. 29, 1953.

March 25 — The Defense Department reports that as of Dec. 20, American casualties in Korea numbered 23, 298 dead, and 108, 226 wounded.

March 26 — Western diplomats think that they have seen the new Soviet regime soften its hard-line foreign policy this week. Because of these incidents, they have hope peace may soon come to Korea.

The developments they point out are:
England announces March 20

that Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov promises to help release a British diplomat and missionaries held by the North Koreans since the war started.

Moscow Radio, for the first time, gives credit to the United States and Great Britain March 21 for achieving "a common victory" against Germany and Japan. Until then, the communists had told their people the USSR won World War II by itself.

On March 24, Britain accepts a Soviet offer - with U.S. and French approval - to discuss ways to avoid further air incidences over Germany. East Germany reopens Mittelland Canal to traffic between Allied zones. When they closed it in August, they claimed the locks were damaged.

Fort Riley continues to be a Korean War Commemorative Community through 2003.



President authorizes new service medals

Army News Service

A presidential executive order signed recently authorizes the Department of Defense to create two new military medals for service in the Global War on Terrorism.

The GWOT Expeditionary Medal will recognize service members who participate in an expedition to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This is limited to those who deploy as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The GWOT Service Medal will recognize service in military operations to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This is limited

ed to Operation Noble Eagle and to those servicemembers who provide support to Operation Enduring Freedom from outside the area of eligibility designated for the GWOT Expeditionary Medal.

The medals were recommended by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld "in response to our Nation's global efforts to suppress terrorism, and the significant contributions members of the Armed Forces bring to bear on the long-term resolution of this threat."

Specific eligibility for these medals will be established by DoD award policy.

The combatant commander has the authority to award the medals for approved operations to units

and personnel deployed within his or her theater. Each service department will prescribe the appropriate regulations for processing and wearing of the medals.

Members of the U.S. armed forces and Coast Guard are eligible for the medals to include Reserve and National Guard activated to support approved operations. Civilians, foreign nationals and foreign military are not eligible. It will take up to twelve months to produce and stock the medal in department supply systems.

Future authorization for these medals will be considered and approved by the chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff if the war on terrorism expands.



Hawk troop qualifies at Table VIII Gunnery exercise

By William Biles
Staff Writer

Cavalry Scouts from H Troop, 1st Cavalry, 3rd Brigade finished honing their skills March 20, by qualifying their Table VIII Gunnery exercise at the Gunnery South Complex, Range 18. The Troop also qualified their Table V, VI and VII.

The Cavalry Scouts were vying for top gunner while they ensured their weapon systems were in peak performance.

The exercise had the soldiers of Hawk Troop testing their marksmanship through a live fire, with their .50-caliber machine gun as well as their MK19, 40 mm machine gun.

"The exercise is geared not only to qualify the soldiers, but also to give them confidence in their weapons so they know they will hit their target," said Lt. Jason Sahin, platoon leader, H Troop, 1st Cav, 3rd Bde.

"Plus, knowing they can go to war at any time, I think this helps build morale through gaining that confidence they receive when they know they can hit and destroy their target," said Staff Sgt. Brandin Rane, senior scout, H Troop, 1st Cav, 3rd Bde.

The scouts fired their weapons using two vehicles on the range in unison.

One vehicle was equipped with the .50 caliber machine gun, while the second was carrying the MK19 machine gun.

The soldiers worked as a team, both within their crews and with the other vehicle. Communication between the two was critical for their success.

"This exercise helps build cohesion within the crew through the constant communication between us," said Sgt. Bradley Boudreaux, section sergeant, H Troop, 1st Cav, 3rd Bde. "We need to know each others moves, and this training helps us learn them."

"If the crew fails to communicate with each other, or communicates their actions out of order, they will be docked points for that performance," said Sahin.

Having good crew cohesion is crucial during wartime.

"As scouts, when we go out there we have to depend on each other. We are almost totally self-

supportive, so that cohesion is very important to us. This training helps to enhance that," said Sgt. John McCord, squad leader, D Troop, 4th Cav, 1st Bde.

The crews gained points by not only hitting their targets, but also by how fast they engaged them. During their run down the range, the soldiers were given different

scenarios to react to. The time it took to react to the targets after they popped up during the scenarios was graded, said Sahin.

The crews had an evaluator in the vehicle to watch their performance and to take notes about the crews hi-points, as well as what they need to practice. The Observer Controller (evaluator) addressed those issues during an After Actions Review. The evaluators were from D Troop, 4th Cav, 3rd Bde.

During the AAR, the individual crewmembers were also able to add their own ideas on what they think they can do to improve performance.

Gunnery is as important part of what the scouts do.

"Gunnery is our bread and butter. It's where we make our money. Other than actually going to war, this is all about what we do," said Sgt. Stephen Sweeney, H Troop, 1st Cav, 3rd Bde.



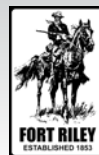
Post Files

Cavalry scouts from Troop H, 1st Cavalry, 3rd Brigade, prep their vehicles and weapons while waiting to qualify their Table VIII Gunnery at the Gunnery South Complex.

On Channel 2

6:30 a.m. In Step
8 a.m. In Step
8:30 a.m. CAC
Noon In Step
12:30 p.m. CAC
6 p.m. In Step
6:30 p.m. CAC
10 p.m. In Step
10:30 p.m. CAC

Fort Riley Community



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America's Warfighting Center

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Proclamation signed: Contributions of military recognized

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

Soldiers who have taken the oath to protect their country were honored at the State Capitol last week.

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said she was honored to sign the proclamation to make March 19, Armed Forces Appreciation Day. It especially touched her heart, knowing the deadline for Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq was about to expire, she said.

The proclamation served as a reminder that protective forces do such an important job at home and overseas to protect American citizens, she said.

Sebelius urged all Kansans to observe the Armed Forces Appreciation Day and support the troops. "There is no question that (military installations), soldiers and citizen soldiers are such a critical component of the Kansas economy and the Kansas culture," she said.

"We should take a day every year to

honor the soldiers who are here," she added. A proclamation is very fitting to honor the soldiers, she said, because not only do military personnel help provide security for the civilians of

"We can't emphasize enough that the military is the cornerstone of our nation."

—Rep. Carol Beggs
R-Kan.

this nation, but they also have significant affects on the economy and other national and international affairs.

Rep. Carol Beggs, R-Kan., said the proclamation is very important to observe because it helps to maintain the continuity and pride of the American people.

"We can't emphasize enough that the military is the cornerstone of our nation," he said.

"It's made us what we are today. If we go to war, it is important to let the soldiers know that we support them. It is the right thing to do," he stated. Beggs said he wants peace as much as the next person, but sometimes war is the only alternative to protect the American people.

"If people are citizens of this great nation, they have the right and responsibility to fight for its freedom if they wish to do so," he said.

"This day honors those that have taken that oath," he concluded.

United States Air Force Maj. Gen. Greg Gardner, adjutant general of Kansas and Col. Jay Simpson, garrison commander, Fort Riley, watch as Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signs a proclamation for Armed Forces Appreciation Day on March 19.



Post/Watson

Korean War vets offer advice

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

When soldiers returned home from the Korean War in the early 1950s, they received little-to-no recognition for their peace efforts.

Many Americans did not even know their country was fighting in Asia, much less a full-blown war with North Korea, China and the Soviet Union.

For that reason, Veteran Kent Arnold said it was called the "Forgotten War" for nearly 50 years—despite the fact that 1.75 million United States soldiers served there and more than 33,000 people died there. Still, it was not called a real war.

"If that wasn't a war, I don't want to be in what is," Arnold said. "For a long time, Americans did not recognize that soldiers were fighting the war," he said. "But now, we have many activities to show that it is not forgotten."

The commemoration began on June 25, 2000, the 50-year anniversary of the war, to ensure

Korean War veterans and their families that their sacrifices would not be forgotten.

Arnold said he holds his head up a little higher these days, because of the honors he and his fellow soldiers have received.

The most recent event was a visit to the state capitol on March 19, where state legislators unanimously passed a resolution to honor the former soldiers on Armed Forces Appreciation Day.

The men present received a standing ovation for their efforts. "I'm very appreciative of the recognition," Arnold said. "I was never bitter about the Korean War being called the 'Forgotten War,' but there is an even warmer feeling in my heart now, because there are activities like these to show that our efforts are not forgotten."

Now, the only things that are forgotten are the bad images of war, Veteran Rex Barlow said, and that is fine with him.

"It's been 50 years and now the only thoughts I have about the war are about the good things," he said. "The bad things fade into the

background."

Col. (ret.) Paul Idol remembers one of the humorous parts of war that happened during combat.

"I had a friend who had a bullet go through his helmet at an angle, and it zipped around in his helmet until the liner fell down around his neck. He took that helmet home with him, and he only suffered a burn on the back of his neck when the bullet fell out."

There were dark days in war, but those images have faded away. Now the only things these veterans remember are the funny soldier antics—nothing in particular, but how the soldiers acted around one another.

Barlow said that is good news for soldiers fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom, knowing that in 50 years, they too would only remember the camaraderie.

"As one that has gone before you, keep the faith. Believe in what you are doing," he said. "Freedom is not free. The younger soldiers will see tough times, but in 50 years, those images will fade and only the good, humorous things will be remembered."

ROTC cadets participate in appreciation day activities

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

Along with several other military presences from around the state, Kansas State University's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps participated in the March 19, Armed Forces Appreciation Day at the state capitol.

Two representatives from K-State's ROTC program, which is the largest program in Kansas, manned an information table and gave out materials on the program. Second Lt. Nathan Arnold, who graduated from the program in May 2002, stood next to Cadet Jonathan Bjorgaard, who began the program this January. They represented the new and the old of the K-State ROTC.

For both, this year's celebration is the first Armed Forces Appreciation Day they have

attended.

"I think military appreciation day is a good idea—to bring all branches of the armed forces together to support one another, especially with today's world situation," said Arnold.

Bjorgaard, who came to K-State especially for the ROTC program, said he agreed, and said he volunteered to represent the program at the capitol.

"This is a great opportunity to present to the public what the military does," said Bjorgaard. "It's something beneficial for the public to see."

As a new cadet in the program, Bjorgaard said he would like to participate again at next year's celebration.

Arnold, now that he has graduated, said he was pleased he could be a part of this year's celebration as well.

"It's good to help bring a pos-

itive image to the program that helped me to be where I am today," he said.

Lt. Col. Arthur DeGroat, the head of K-State's ROTC, also attended the day's celebration.

"I appreciate that the leaders in Kansas take the time to support and recognize the armed forces," said DeGroat. "And, I love being with all of the other branches of the armed services," he added.

K-State's ROTC representatives said they enjoyed participating at the capitol, and were pleased to meet some of the military officers that were there.

"It was good to meet Col. Rita Broadway, who was the first female commissioned from the K-State ROTC," said Arnold.

For the new and the old of the ROTC, Armed Forces Appreciation Day showed them the state's support and raised morale.

Theater named in memory of past installation Chief of Staff

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

Spirits were high as friends and family reunited March 14 at Normandy Theater to remember a man who left a large impact on Fort Riley.

Normandy Theater's marquee read "Barlow Theater" for the first time Friday. It is now named in honor of a devoted husband, father, great soldier and friend, said Col. (ret.) Larry Githerman, director of logistics, in his remarks about Brig. Gen. Bruce Barlow.

Fort Riley remembers Barlow, who served here from August 1996 to June 1999 as Chief of Staff, with the theater in his name. Barlow passed away April 30, 2002, at the age of 51.

The dedication ceremony brought the Barlow family, soldiers and staff at Fort Riley and friends from surrounding communities to the post.

Col. John Simpson, garrison commander, gave the opening remarks at the ceremony.

"It is a fitting honor to the memory of Brig. Gen. Bruce H. Barlow, a man who served his fellow soldier and his community with such passion, humor and love that his service will continue through use of this outstanding facility," said Simpson.

Barlow attended the U.S. Military Academy and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry on June 6, 1972. He received a Master's Degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College. Barlow held numerous command and staff

positions, including deputy commanding general (central), 5th U.S. Army and assistant deputy chief of operations, Forces Command.

Barlow was a considerate man, who always had a good attitude and a good sense of humor, said Col. (ret.) Kent Thomas, who was garrison commander of Fort Riley at the time Barlow was chief of staff. Thomas said Barlow was well-respected by all of his peers.

"Above all else, Bruce Barlow was proud to be in the Army and enjoyed being a soldier," said Githerman. He also loved his time here at Fort Riley, and he was the driving force behind standing up the 24th Infantry Division Headquarters and staff.

"He focused on preparing the post and division to become the Army's warfighting center," said Githerman, with pride and satisfaction. Barlow's son, 1st Lt. Christopher Barlow, reaffirmed his

father's love of Fort Riley.

"This was certainly his favorite post and installation to work on," Christopher said. "He really appreciated all of the support, both inside and outside of the post, for the soldiers."

Barlow's wife, Sandy, said they had never experienced anything like the support and friendships in the surrounding communities of Fort Riley.

"This was our Camelot," she said. "It

had to be our very best assignment. Coming here for this event is like coming home."

For many of Barlow's friends who served with him at Fort Riley, dedicating this theater to him could not be more appropriate.

Command Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Richard Young, who was the installation Command Sergeant Major during Barlow's stay at Fort Riley, said Barlow was a super soldier who cared about people.

"He could make decisions, he was fair, and he always had a sense of humor when things were going bad," said Young. "He deserves to be remembered in some way for his contributions to Fort Riley."

Sandy also spoke of her husband's love and passion for soldiers.

"I can't think of any greater honor to bestow upon him than naming this theater after him—this theater that hosts military ceremonies, where soldiers are recognized and honored," she said. "How humbled and astounded my hus-

band would be to find his name attached to this theater that he entered on so many occasions."

His wife said he was a genuinely humble, compassionate and generous man with a wonderful sense of humor.

"He had two passions in life: his families and his soldiers," she said. "He was a true soldier's soldier."

After the dedication ceremony, Githerman said he was proud to know, and be a friend of, Barlow.

"This theater is a perfect spot to name something for Bruce because he would want to be right in the middle of the troop area and be around soldiers," said Githerman. "One of Bruce's trademarks was his consistent concern for the impact that his decisions had upon soldiers."

Barlow received many awards and decorations during his service to the country, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge and the Ranger tab.

Normandy Theater, now Barlow Theater, was opened Nov. 14, 1974, and serves many purposes, including a movie theater, briefing location and ceremony facility.

The theater recently underwent renovations, receiving new carpet, seating, curtains and a new sound system. A plaque is now located on the outside of theater, reading "Barlow Theater, dedicated to the memory of Brig. Gen. Bruce H. Barlow."



TASC/Allen

Brig. Gen. Bruce Barlow's family members, Kelly, his daughter, and Sandy, his wife, stand with the plaque that was unveiled at a dedication ceremony for the post theater.



All of Donna Krumm's first grade students raise their hands during a word game at Custer Hill Elementary. The school emphasizes that no child is left behind.

School nominated for award

Michael Watson
Staff writer

When it comes to education, no child is left behind at Custer Hill Elementary School. Every student has the same opportunity for the best education the school can give, regardless of the family's social status. Principal Sierra Jackson said it does not matter if a child comes from the poorest or richest family — they will all receive the same wealth of knowledge.

"Our school does not hold any child back," she said. "We have a lot of children who come from less fortunate families, but you would never know it if you look in the classroom. Every child receives the same education."

That could be one reason a state panel has nominated Custer Hill Elementary for the U.S. Department of Education's 2003 No Child Left Behind, Blue Ribbon Schools Award — one of only five Kansas schools selected.

The nomination was extended because more than 40 percent of the schools students come from disadvantaged backgrounds, Jackson said. However, despite poverty, the students have dramatically improved student performance to high levels on state assessments in the past few years.

Donna Krumm is one of the teachers who make sure no child is left behind.

When playing word games last week, every child participated. When asked to spell the word nine, approximately 20 student said N-I-N-E altogether. But if one student was not using his "listening ears," Krumm would ask him to sit up straight and pay attention, so the student would not fall behind the rest of the class.

Most of the children did really well in class, but when it was time to turn in reading homework from the day before, there were two first graders who forgot to do their's.

To make sure those children did not fall behind the learning curve, those children missed recess until the reading work was done. Krumm said a good education is more important than recess, even with 70-degree weather.

Jackson said it is that kind of commitment that helped to earn the Blue Ribbon Schools Award nomination, Jackson said.

"Our school isn't any different from other schools, just because more students come families of lower incomes," Jackson said. "We have just identified our children's needs, and that is because we have great teachers in the classroom. That's something that every school needs."

Jackson said she is excited that the teachers' hard work has finally been recognized.

The nomination has been forwarded to a panel in Washington, D.C. for review. Jackson said she did not know how many schools would be selected for the award, and the school will not know if they are chosen until September.

Regardless of the final award results, Custer Hill Elementary will still stress the same values in the classroom, Jackson said.

She said it is a lengthy application, but she hopes the panel will recognize the hard work Custer Hill Elementary teachers and students put into a higher level of education.

"Our teachers are the key to the program," she said. "We meet regularly to discuss student needs and strategies in the classroom. And that is what schools have to do to make sure all the children get the best education they can get."

Post-Watson

Honor Guard joins festivities at capitol

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

Fort Riley's presence at Kansas Armed Forces Appreciation Day last Wednesday was apparent and noticeable. The day, dedicated to the armed forces, included meeting with Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, the signing of a proclamation declaring March 19 Armed Forces Appreciation Day and the reading and passing of the proclamation in both the state House of Representatives and Senate.

Fort Riley's Public Affairs Office helped represent the post with a display, soldiers and materials about the post. Col. John Simpson, garrison commander, was at the capitol as well, and gave a speech about Fort Riley to the Senate.

Fort Riley's Honor Guard also played a large role in the day's celebrations. The Honor Guard represented Fort Riley with 12 soldiers and eight horses roving the state capitol grounds and providing security on the east side of the building. Additionally, the Honor Guard was set up as a tribute to the old, next to the new technology of the military, outside of the capitol. The governor, who ventured outside to tour the different military displays, greeted the Honor Guard and gave her condolences on the recent death of an Honor Guard soldier.

A rider-less horse stood in recognition of Spc. Derek Junk, the Honor Guard soldier who died March 13 while preparing for the day's event.

"His name was on the commitment list to be here today," said Sgt. 1st Class Greg Sutton, Honor Guard non-commissioned officer in charge. "So, the rider-less horse is in memory of him."

The soldiers weathered out the rain all day, arriving at the capitol at 7 a.m. and leaving at 3 p.m., but their spirits remained high.

"We feel honored to be asked to participate," said Capt. Shane Pruenete, commander of the Honor Guard, after being greeted by the governor. "It's wonderful to know that the governor appreciates what we do."

Sutton said he considered the Honor Guard's participation a privilege, and he was happy and

excited to be a part of the day.

"It makes us feel like others are grateful for the sacrifices that we, as soldiers, make," he said. "It shows us that our duties are appreciated by others."

Spc. Thomas Adams, an Honor Guard soldier, said he was proud to be a part of the guard and the day.

"Military appreciation day is a great way of showing soldiers that the state cares," he said.

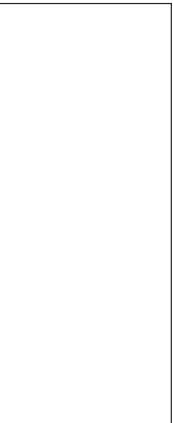
Of the Honor Guard's 15 soldiers, 12 attended the Armed Forces Appreciation Day event at

the capitol. All of the guard soldiers are unique, working with the horses and guard full-time, but they also work with a parent unit to maintain deployable status, said Sutton. The soldiers go through additional tests to become members of the Honor Guard, including a riding test and riding training. Throughout the year, the Honor Guard soldiers serve as ambassadors for Fort Riley, representing the post in parades and other celebrations in the community.



Post-Watson

Capt. Shane Pruenete and Spc. Matthew Hutzenbiler took part in activities at the state Capitol March 19.



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MP Company takes post basketball championship

By William Biles
Staff Writer

The 977th Military Police Company added icing to their cake by winning the Fort Riley Intramural Basketball Championship game March 19 at King Field House.

The MPs won the championship by defeating the Medical Activity team by a score of 61 - 49.

The cake for the MPs was made when they were awarded the Commanders Cup by Col. (P) Frank Helmick, commander, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, March 18 at the King Field House.

The beginning of the championship game seemed to be a run-away for the MPs, with them jumping out to a 24 - 6 lead within the first 10 minutes of the game.

However, the last 10 minutes of the first half belonged to the MEDDAC team, who stuck to their game plan of frustrating the MPs.

"They like to run, so we're going to keep the pace to where we like it and try to get them into foul trouble early on in the game," said Tracey Clark, coach, MEDDAC.

By sticking to that game plan, foul trouble is exactly what the MPs found themselves in. With less than five minutes left in the first half, several of the MPs had three fouls against them, which made tempers rise and caused one of the MPs to be ejected from the game for a technical foul.

With the MPs off track, the MEDDAC team crept back into the game and closed the gap in the score to within four points of the MPs.

"We were starting to get fouled and getting beat at the boards and it was getting frustrating for us. Then, the calls weren't going our way and it got into our heads," said Patrick Appling, 977th MP Co.

At the half, Appling talked to his team and tried to cool them down so they could get back to their normal playing agenda.

"I talked to my players and told them we need to play our game. I told them that we have a better squad and have better athletes out here," Appling said. "I also reminded them that we had them down by 20 points

and now we just let them back into the ball game."

In the second half, the MPs approached the game with cooler heads and hotter hands.

"We have the team with the ability to blow them out of the water, and that is what we're going to try and do," Appling said.

By running a motion offense and passing the ball quickly and effectively down the sidelines, the MPs kept, and then expand, their lead.

However, keeping the lead was not an easy thing for the MPs to achieve. The MEDDAC team continued to play their "team ball" and kept the tempo of the game more to their liking whenever they had the chance to do so.

"We definitely want to play some good team ball, using good passes and a good tight defense," said Clark. "They have a lot of good outside shooters, as well as an aggressive defense, but we are going to let them know that we are here to play tonight, and we'll see what happens."

What happened was an exciting first fifteen minutes of the second half, where the teams scored within six points of each other.

The MPs, however, were able to stick to their game, which allowed them to pull ahead. With five minutes left, the MPs found themselves eight points ahead of the MEDDAC team.

It didn't stop there though. With the clock winding down, the MEDDAC team found themselves trailing 57 - 44, with 1:10 to play. Being down thirteen points, the medicals were trying more shots from the three-point range. They were only able to make one in their several attempts.

Those attempts lead to the MPs gaining control of the rebounds, taking precious seconds off the clock.

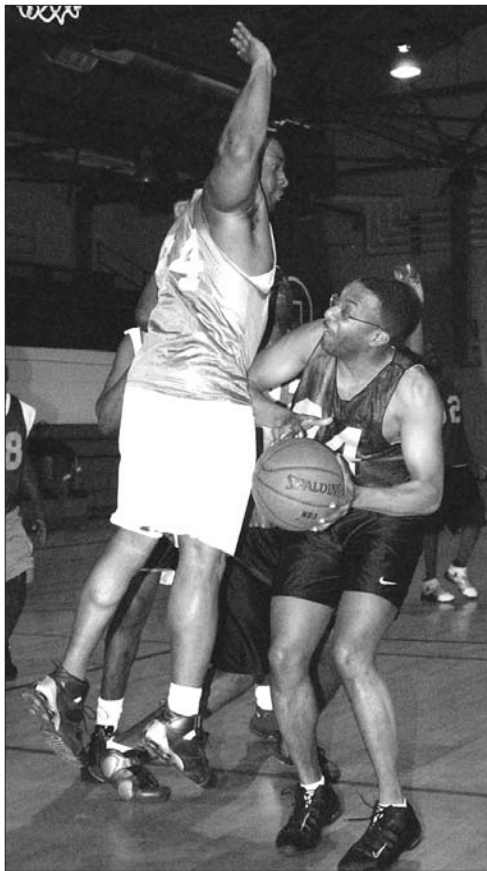
By the final buzzer, the MPs found themselves holding the ball and receiving the championship trophy.

"I'm very proud of them," said 1st Sgt. Dawn Ripplemyer, 977th MP Co. "They come out here and work hard. No matter how busy they are at work, they will still come out here and play hard and do great things."

Even with prepping for deployment, these guys found the time to get out here and play as hard as they work, and it showed," said Capt. Dan Lorenzen, commander, 977th MP Co.



Stephen Clark, MEDDAC, drives around Chrispy Casiano, 977th Military Police Company, during the championship.



Stephen Clark, MEDDAC, looks for a way to get around Jason Bennett, 977th Military Police Company, during the Fort Riley Intramural Basketball Championship game at the King Field House March 19.

Copperhead bites cause pain, swelling

By Gibran Saleman
DES Biologist

There are many attributes that make Fort Riley a great place for training the men and woman of America's Army. One aspect that many might overlook is the relative lack of threat from venomous snakes. In fact, there has only been one species of venomous snake ever documented on Fort Riley — it is the copperhead. The timber rattlesnake and the massasauga rattlesnake have been documented near Fort Riley, but never within the Fort's boundaries.

Copperheads are distinctive in their looks. They have seven to 20 light-edged brownish cross bands on their back and sides. Their pupils are elliptical, similar to a cat eye, and all copperheads have a small heat-sensing pit toward the tip of the head, which is used for thermal imaging. Copperheads do not have any kind of rattle on their tail, but they can vibrate the tip of their tail when aggravated. They also emit a strong smelling musk when aggravated.

When compared to many non-venomous snakes, copperheads are relatively heavy bodied. Adult copperheads typically achieve lengths of two to three feet. Copperheads eat a variety of prey items. They are particularly fond of rodents, frogs and cicadas.

Fort Riley is located at the extreme western border of the copperhead's range. Surprisingly, copperheads are relatively common on Fort Riley. Six individual copperheads were captured in a day last spring during a five-hour long reptile survey conducted by the Conservation Division. Due to their secretive nature and quality camouflage, copperheads can co-exist near or in residential areas. They typically

ly will remain undiscovered, but occasionally one is found near people's homes.

The venom of the copperhead is mild, and rarely fatal. There have not been any human fatalities from a copperhead bite reported in Kansas over the last fifty years. Of all ven-

On the Wildside: News About Nature



Copperheads have seven to 20 light-edged brownish cross bands on their back and sides.

omous snakebites reported in the United States, copperhead bites are the most commonly reported. This is primarily due to the large amount of urbanization that has occurred in the east and the fact that high densities of

copperheads can be found near cities. Although rarely fatal, copperhead bites are painful. Besides the pain, swelling of the immediate area around the bite area will also be immediately obvious. Due to the swelling, any tight fitting clothing or jewelry should be removed immediately after a bite occurs. A small percentage of copperhead bites are dry bites, and no venom is injected. The most important thing to remember in the event of a bite is to get to a hospital CALMLY and SAFELY. Ideally, a bite victim will want to have someone drive him to the hospital. Since the venom of the copperhead is mild, there is no need to drive using excessive speed.

Copperheads are typically only active during daylight, but become active at night in the summer months. Copperheads rely on their camouflage and ability to remain still to avoid predators. They are not aggressive and only bite when threatened. Most bites to humans occur on the victim's right hand. This would indicate the victim was harassing the snake in some manner. Bites to the lower leg are also common indicating that the victim accidentally stepped on the snake.

Although the majority of snakes lay eggs, the copperhead gives birth to live young. Females give birth to an average of five young during the summer. Young copperheads are born with a yellow-greenish tail. It is thought that the tail serves as a lure to attract small frogs. Young copperheads are born with venom and should be considered just as potentially dangerous as adults.

A live adult copperhead is kept on display at the Conservation Division's office, building 1020, located across from Camp Funston. If you have any questions, call 239-6211. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Fort Riley fishing clinic offers fun for soldiers' children

By William Biles
Staff Writer

The Directorate of Environment and Safety and the Directorate of Community Activities is sponsoring Fort Riley's 2nd Annual Fishing Clinic April 12, 9 a.m. - noon, at Moon Lake.

The clinic is free for soldier's children 15 years of age and younger.

Advanced registration for the event is being held until April 9. The clinic will accept late registrations from 8 - 8:45 a.m. the day of the event.

Participants can mail or drop off their registration form to the DES. The mailing address is:

Directorate of Environment and Safety, ATTN: Carin Richardson, Building 407, Pershing Court Fort Riley, Kan. 66442.

Prior to the clinic, the lake will be stocked with 500 trout and catfish. The clinic will also provide a limited amount of fishing poles for children to use.

In addition, the clinic will have a casting and equipment demonstration and there will be a fish identification class, as well as a fishing ethics and boating safety class.

Participants are asked to provide their own fishing equipment if possible — rod, reel, hooks and bait.

The clinic's sponsors recommend participants also bring chairs, appropriate clothing, sunscreen and their own refreshments.

For the participant's convenience, the sponsors will provide portable restrooms on-site.

For additional information, contact Richardson at the Directorate of Environment and Safety, 239-2145, or visit her office at building 407 on Main Post.

Veterinary Services has wide array of duties on, off post

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

Fort Riley Veterinary Services personnel do much more than work with pets and animals. Another aspect of their job is being in charge of food inspections.

The food inspection division has several different duties, on and off post. Capt. Michael Hansen, chief, Vet Services, is in charge of auditing and inspecting all plants in Kansas, from Topeka east, that the Army buys food from, including dairy plants, meat plants, bakeries and water plants.

Hansen said he checks hygiene and cleanliness, and makes sure that the plants are up to safety standards.

Outside of inspecting plants, Vet Services also does inspections at the Commissary and the Troop Issue Supply Activity. At the Commissary, personnel inspect food deliveries and products on the shelves. The food inspectors are in charge of checking deliveries for contractual obligations.

Sgt. Roy Goldsbery, non-commissioned officer in charge, food inspection section, said that produce is delivered and checked five days per week, and meat is checked once per week.

"For example, if we get a delivery of grapes in, and 30 percent of our sample is molded, we have to

send it back," said Spec. Kobi Logan, veterinary food inspector. She said this is because the U.S. Department of Agriculture standards say only two percent can be molded."

But, Logan said, the vet services inspectors are only there to advise unless a health issue is involved. "If there is a health issue, the vets will make the final call," said Logan.

The inspectors will report the items that are defected to the accountable officer, the Commissary manager, who will then make the decision whether or not to contact the manufacturer and send the product back or keep it, said Logan. The Commissary is also bound by USDA standards, she said.

Besides checking deliveries for contractual obligations and quality, the inspectors also check to make sure the product came from an approved source.

"Almost every product has a list of sources that are approved by the Army," said Logan. While the inspectors know that Nestle's is an approved source for candy bars, if Nestle's sends a case of bottled water, the inspectors will check to make sure the company is also approved for water.

The inspectors at the Commissary go a step further and investigate customer complaints as well.

They will work with the complainant to make sure the product was handled properly. The inspectors also take a sample of the same product, delivered with the same shipment, off the shelf and inspect it for quality. If the sample turns out to be defected, the inspectors will then send another sample to the Food Analysis Diagnostic Laboratory in San Antonio, Texas, which is where the Veterinary Command Headquarters is located, said Goldsbery. The lab will determine the quality and alert the local communities if necessary.

Logan said that customer complaints rarely go as far as the lab in San Antonio. Usually, the defected product is a single bad case, and the rest of the shipment is good.

The vets inspecting the Commissary also do surveillance inspections on the floor. Logan said they generally look for new items and check labels, expiration dates and for proper storage.

Vet Services food inspection personnel have another mission at the Troop Issue Subsistence Area.

"The difference between the mission at the Commissary and TISA breaks down into whose interest we protect," said Logan.

"At the Commissary, we protect the interests of the government, but we also look out for the inter-

ests of the soldiers and their families. At the TISA, it's mostly the interest of the government and the soldiers."

The inspectors at the TISA make sure that the rations going to the units are wholesome, free from contamination and meet any other contractual requirements set forth by Defense Service Personnel Center, said Logan. The inspectors at the TISA also process and inspect the deliveries and products at the dining facilities on post.

With all of the food inspection duties, in addition to working with pets, military working dogs and honor guard horses, the staff at Veterinary Services stays busy.

"Being a food inspector in Vet Services doesn't mean that at one of your duty stations you may not end up doing some vet work," said Logan. The soldiers in vet services are trained and ready to work in either side of the house.



Sgt. Roy Goldsbery, noncommissioned officer in charge, food inspection division, veterinary services, weighs a sample of the Commissary's pork delivery before finishing his inspection of contractual obligations.

MPs ask you to buckle up

By Capt. Nicole Mattlach
PMAO

Would it surprise you to learn that the leading cause of death for the U.S. military is traffic crashes in private vehicles?

That's right. Not combat or training exercises, but traffic crashes.

So, if the world's greatest fighting force is not immune to traffic crashes, neither is anyone else. In fact, traffic crashes are also the leading cause of death for children and teens.

As Americans rely on the U.S. military more than ever to protect them, the armed forces are joining law enforcement and emergency physician. "We must do everything we can to prevent these senseless tragedies on the road."

Vehicle crash deaths among military personnel on and off base are up 35 percent from last

men and women in uniform are killed in traffic crashes than in combat or training combined.

"With more than 12,000 law enforcement agencies blanketing roads, and U.S. military bases around the world cracking down on seat belt violations, seat belt laws are being enforced. That's why now, more than ever before, not buckling up is likely to cost you a hefty fine. Sadly, and more important, not buckling up could cost you your life," said Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D., National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator and emergency physician.

"We must do everything we can to prevent these senseless tragedies on the road."

Vehicle crash deaths among military personnel on and off base are up 35 percent from last

year — the highest fatality rate for military personnel in the last four years.

More than 320 military personnel across all services lost their lives in traffic crashes last year alone.

Tragically, nearly half of those young servicemen and women who failed to wear seat belts could have survived if they had buckled up. Military personnel, by virtue of age and gender, typically epitomize high-risk drivers and low belt users: males ages 18-25.

The world is a different place since 9/11, but everyone must keep perspective and not lose sight of the greatest risk faced every day — traffic crashes. The Fort Riley Military Police ask that you protect yourself and your loved ones — please buckle up.

Military children honored in April

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

April is the Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Carolyn Tolliver-Lee, social services representative for the Family Advocacy Program, said a countless number of children are abused in the civilian world, and the Army community is no different.

She said that is why programs

and activities, including a Parent Fair and family events, such as a puppet show, are included in the month-long campaign on post.

"The programs are geared to enhance the bond between the parent and child," Tolliver-Lee said. "And, we've tried to cover all age groups."

This year's campaign slogan is "Our Country, Our Children: Protecting Them Both." Tolliver-Lee said the primary goal of the campaign is to promote the well being of families in

order to prevent child abuse and family violence. It does so by reinforcing positive family interaction.

The Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month kicks off April 3 with a parade at the Child Development Center. For other activities, see the calendar of events on the Family Advocacy Program home page at www.riley.army.mil/Services/Family/FAP.asp or contact the Family Advocacy Program, 239-9435.



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